

# STATE OF COLORADO

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Jane E. Norton  
Lieutenant Governor

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## **NORTON RALLIES COLORADO AROUND WAITING CHILDREN**

*Norton hosts State's third annual adoption event*

(Denver) –Lieutenant Governor Jane Norton today hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual *Shout Out for Colorado's Waiting Children*, an event organized to promote adoption and raise awareness of the critical need for adoptive families in the State of Colorado. The ceremony was held on the West Steps of the State Capitol where the names of waiting children were called out and candles lit in their honor.

“We are here tonight because we believe children deserve caring adults to tuck them into bed every night, to help them with schoolwork, and to nurture and guide them on a daily basis,” said Norton. We are committed to strengthening Colorado families by achieving a successful life-long placement for every ‘waiting’ child in our State.”

Surrounded by adoptive families and parents considering the calling of adoption, Norton, along with representatives from the Colorado Department of Human Services, read a portion of names out of the more than 800 children currently waiting for a permanent home. Candles were then light in their honor to promote the importance of adoption.

Charged with the Administration's strengthening families initiative, Norton is chair of the *Lt. Governor's Committee to Promote Adoption*, which analyzed the Colorado adoption system this past year and presented recommendations in July 2004 for change to both the Governor and the General Assembly for consideration in 2005.

*Jane Norton was sworn in as Colorado's 46<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor on January 13, 2003. Her responsibilities include serving as the chair of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs; acting as point person for the Owens Administration on health insurance reform; strengthening families by promoting adoption, Head Start collaborative efforts, mentoring and volunteerism; and serving as Colorado's delegate to the Aerospace States Association.*

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